

**From:** Rettmann, Mark  
**To:** [Owens, Kim](#); [Tina Tong - US ACOE \(Kristina.G.Tong@USACE.Army.mil\)](#); [Romano, Olivia H NWS](#); [Karla Kluge \(kkluge@cityoftacoma.org\)](#); [Matt Curtis \(Matthew.Curtis@dfw.wa.gov\)](#); [Pongkhamsing, Chan](#); [Scott Sisson \(ssisson@co.pierce.wa.us\)](#); [Gail.M.Terzi@usace.army.mil](#); [Callender, Alexander \(ECY\) \(acal461@ECY.WA.GOV\)](#); [kate.thompson@ecy.wa.gov](#); [Shandra Ohaleck \(shandra.ohaleck@noaa.gov\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Rehe, William](#); [Myers, David](#); [Warfield, Tony](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Construction Update for UCCMS  
**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2015 11:07:55 AM

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All,

I just wanted to provide an update (and a heads up) (b) (6) . I'll be back on September 25.

The Port has not found a reason for the higher water levels in Clear Creek as there does not appear to be any downstream blockages in the stream or the culverts. It has taken longer than expected to coordinate with the design team, contractor, and landscaping subcontractor. However, we will be proposing revisions to the planting plan and some plant substitutions in a memo. As the site is currently under construction, and the contractor needs to finalize plant orders for planting that will begin in a few weeks, we would appreciate a timely review and response on the memo. If requested, we can have a meeting or an on-site tour to discuss the proposed changes and to see the current progress.

Based on the actual/observed water levels on the site, we will be proposing revising the planting plan to allow for better survivability of the plants based on their water inundation tolerance. The amount of wetland will not change, but the types of wetland will change based on the actual water levels and the revised planting plan with more scrub-shrub wetland and less forest wetland types. For additional diversity, we will be proposing additional emergent floodplain area similar to areas that previously existed in small pockets on the site.

We will also be requesting plant substitutions for certain plant types that are not available from suppliers due to poor survivability/growth at the nurseries and in the same or a separate memo we will propose how plants installed last year that have failed will be replaced.

All of these proposed changes will be detailed in the memo that we anticipate sending out next week. Late next week or the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> would likely be the best time to meet if there is interest in discussing the proposed changes and/or touring the site. Please let us know if there is definite interest as we could get an early start on coordinating a day and time that works best for most people.

Bill Rehe or Tony Warfield will be working on this in my absence.

Mark

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**From:** Rettmann, Mark  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2015 3:39 PM  
**To:** Kimberly Owens (Owens.Kim@epamail.epa.gov); Tina Tong - US ACOE (Kristina.G.Tong@USACE.Army.mil); 'Romano, Olivia H NWS'; Karla Kluge (kkluge@cityoftacoma.org); Matt Curtis (Matthew.Curtis@dfw.wa.gov); Chan Pongkhamsing (Pongkhamsing.Chan@epamail.epa.gov); Scott Sisson (ssisson@co.pierce.wa.us); Gail.M.Terzi@usace.army.mil; Callender, Alexander (ECY) (acal461@ECY.WA.GOV); 'lauren.driscoll@ecy.wa.gov'  
**Cc:** Rehe, William; Myers, David; Warfield, Tony  
**Subject:** Construction Update for UCCMS

All,

As you are aware, the second year of construction at the Port of Tacoma's Upper Clear Creek Mitigation Site (UCCMS) has been under way since April. The new channels have been connected to the existing Clear Creek and the majority of the grading and large wood structure installations have been completed. All in-water work will be completed by the end of Clear Creek's in-water work window (August 31). The remaining work will include finish grading in the upland/buffer area, installation of year 2 plants, and maintenance activities (weeding and replacement of year 1 plants that did not survive).

Since mid- to late-July we have noticed higher than normal water levels in Clear Creek, which have resulted in higher than anticipated water levels on UCCMS for this time of year. The site has been constructed to the design elevations and no design changes related to this condition have occurred at this point. The Port's design team has looked into potential reasons for the high water (i.e., downstream blockages in the culverts or the creek, excessive inputs upstream, higher than normal vegetation growth in the creek, etc.), but we have not found a definitive reason for the higher water elevations.

The Port's design team is currently evaluating the high water level condition and the current planting plan and may propose potential design or planting plan revisions or options to the permitting agencies, the IRT, and EPA within the next couple of weeks.

Attached is an aerial photograph of the site taken yesterday (August 26, 2015).

Regards,

Mark

